

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An infant care apparatus, said apparatus comprising a base having an infant support on which an infant is positioned, a radiant heater mounted to said base at a fixed vertical distance above said infant support, a canopy mounted to said base, said canopy being movable between a lower position wherein said canopy fits over said infant support to form an infant compartment adapted to enclose an infant and an upper position wherein said canopy is elevated with respect to said infant support and the infant compartment is open, said canopy having an opening formed therein located so as to be positioned between said radiant heater and said infant support when said canopy is in said upper position to allow said radiant heater to direct radiant energy through said opening toward said infant support.

2. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said canopy has at least one door, said at least one door having a closed position blocking said opening when said canopy is in said lower position and an open position when said canopy is in said upper position, said door being openable or closable by interaction with a fixed component of said infant care apparatus as said canopy moves, respectively, from its lower position to its upper position and from its upper position to its lower position.

3. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein said at least one door is openable by interaction with a fixed component of the infant care apparatus as the canopy moves to said upper position.

4. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 3 wherein the fixed component is affixed to or is the radiant heater.

5. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 3 wherein the at least one door is biased toward its closed position.

6. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein said infant care apparatus further includes a locking mechanism to lock said at least one door in the closed position when in said lower position.

7. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 6 wherein said locking mechanism comprises a projection that physically contacts said at least one door when said canopy is in said lower position to lock said at least one door in its closed position.

8. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 2 said at least one door is closable by interaction with a fixed component of the infant care apparatus as the canopy moves to said lower position.

9. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 8 wherein said at least one door is biased toward its open position.

10. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 6 wherein said at least one door comprises a pair of doors.

11. An infant care apparatus, said apparatus comprising a base having an infant support on which an infant is positioned, a radiant heater mounted to said base at a fixed vertical distance above said infant support, a canopy mounted to said base, said canopy being movable between a lower position wherein said canopy fits over said infant support to form an infant compartment adapted to enclose an infant and an upper position wherein said canopy is elevated with respect to said infant support and the infant compartment is open, said canopy having an opening formed therein located so as to be positioned between said radiant heater and said infant support when said canopy is in said upper position to allow said radiant heater to direct radiant energy through said opening toward said infant support, said canopy having at least one door, said at

least one door having a closed position blocking said opening when said canopy is in said lower position and an open position when said canopy is in said upper position, said door being biased toward said open position, said at least one door being closable by an interaction between said at least one door and a fixed member of the infant warming apparatus when said canopy moves from its upper position to said lower position.

12. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 11 wherein said infant warming apparatus includes a mechanism to interact between said at least one door and a fixed member of the infant care apparatus.

13. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 12 wherein said mechanism comprises a bracket affixed to said at least one door and a vertically oriented pin connected to said bracket and having a lower end that is adapted to contact the fixed member as said canopy moves toward said lower position to prevent further downward movement of said pin, whereby further downward movement of said canopy causes said pin to move said bracket again the bias to close said at least one door.

14. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 13 wherein said pin is connected to said bracket by means of an intermediate linkage.

15. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 14 wherein said linkage has a means to vary the length of the linkage.

16. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 13 wherein said at least one door comprises a pair of doors, each having a mechanism including a pin and wherein a pin for one of the pair of doors is a different length than the pin for the other of the pair of doors.

17. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 12 wherein there are a plurality of vertically oriented side walls forming the infant compartment and said canopy fits over the vertically oriented side walls when in said lower position, and

wherein said fixed member is located atop of at least one of the vertically oriented side walls.

18. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 12 where the bias on said at least one door is created by means of a spring having one end thereof affixed to the bracket or the linkage.

19. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 18 wherein said at least one door comprise a pair of doors.

20. An infant care apparatus, said apparatus comprising a base having an infant support on which an infant is positioned, a radiant heater mounted to said base at a fixed vertical distance above said infant support, a canopy mounted to said base, said canopy being movable between a lower position wherein said canopy fits over said infant support to form an infant compartment adapted to enclose an infant and an upper position wherein said canopy is elevated with respect to said infant support and the infant compartment is open, said canopy having an opening formed therein located so as to be positioned between said radiant heater and said infant support when said canopy is in said upper position to allow said radiant heater to direct radiant energy through said opening toward said infant support, at least one door mounted to said canopy, said at least one door having a closed position blocking said opening when said canopy is in said lower position and an open position when said canopy is in said upper position, said at least one door being oriented at a predetermined angle and forming, with said canopy, an unobstructed path along an upper surface of said at least one door when in the closed position to cause objects placed on the upper surface of said at least one door to move downwardly along the unobstructed surface to fall free of the upper surface of the at least one door.

21. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 20 wherein said predetermined angle is between about 20 degrees and about 50 degrees.

22. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 21 wherein said

predetermined angle is about 30 degrees.

23. An infant care apparatus as defined in claim 20 wherein the at least one door comprise a pair of doors.